

Merced Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
JOINT MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL AND ADVISORY
COMMITTEES

County of Merced Administration Building, Room 310

2222 M Street, Merced, California

June 27, 2019

Special Meeting

10:00AM

AGENDA

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1. INTRODUCTIONS

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Public opportunity to speak on any matter of public interest within the Agency's jurisdiction including items on the Agency's agenda. Testimony limited to three minutes per person.

3. MEETING MINUTES

May 16, 2019

4. SCENARIOS FOR ALLOCATION WITHIN THE MERCED SUBBASIN GSA

5. COORDINATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

6. NEXT MEETING

7. ADJOURNMENT

**MERCED SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY JOINT MEETING OF
THE TECHNICAL AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES**
MINUTES FOR MEETING OF MAY 16, 2019- SPECIAL MEETING

The special meeting of the Technical and Advisory Committee for the Merced Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) was called to order at 2:00 p.m., on May 16, 2019, at the Merced County Administration Building located at 2222 "M" Street, room 310, Third Floor, Merced, California.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

All attendees did roundtable introductions.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Committee member, Eric Swenson asked when comments on three chapters are due and Ms. Lacey Kiriakou, Water Resources Coordinator for Merced County, responded that she would find out and committee members know. Ms. Kiriakou informed the Committee if they had other important comments or questions to send them to her and she will get them to the appropriate agency for a response. Ms. Kiriakou informed that the Merced SGMA website has access to information, meeting minutes, presentations, upcoming workshops and other items pertaining to the Merced Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) and Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).

III. MEETING MINUTES

Minutes for April 18, 2019, were presented to the committee. No changes were suggested by the Committee.

IV. CLIMATE CHANGE ANALYSIS

Ms. Lacey Kiriakou presented a slideshow regarding the Climate Change Analysis that consultants Woodard and Curran put together. Ms. Kiriakou suggested that if anyone in the committee had any detailed questions to provide them to her so she can get answers from consultants. Ms. Kiriakou discussed law requirements pertaining to GSP development and then went over the details of the Climate Change Analysis. Ms. Kiriakou clarified that the analysis is a forecast of what the water budget would look like with climate change, but it does not consider any projects or management actions. Committee member, Mr. Eric Swenson suggested that the presentation should point out to the public via a header that the analysis reflects the uncontrolled impact for groundwater if no actions are taken and also suggested adding information about declining snow pack.

V. UNDESIREABLE RESULTS & MINIMUM THRESHOLDS

Ms. Kiriakou informed that Woodard and Curran have been putting together undesirable results based on feedback from the Coordination and the Stakeholder Committees. Ms. Kiriakou went over definitions and shared information on the Merced GSP Sustainability Goal and discussed the presentation.

In discussing the groundwater elevation minimum threshold and shallow domestic wells, the committee discussed the possibility of various aquifers supplying various wells with differing depths of water. Mr. Swenson stated that he knows of people that would volunteer to let their production wells be used in the model in order to help broaden the category of wells in the model. Ms. Kiriakou informed that the model would be updated after 2020. The committee discussed conflicts with minimum thresholds and the possibility that the database used is not current and might not be able to correctly assess current conditions due to a database problem. Suggestions were made that in order to resolve the conflict, one can go to the location where the conflict exists and find current water depth and pumping levels to determine if there really is an issue. Committee member Blake Nervino suggested that there might be ways to handle discrepancies by shrinking the buffer down or create mitigations on the issues. Mr. Swenson suggested a possible funding mechanism in the GSA to help fund deeper wells and Mr. Nervino warned that this might create issues of people moving into areas that they should not be. Mr. Nervino suggested that defining what constitutes a dry well may help in creating consensus. Ms. Kiriakou discussed the option Woodard and Curran may be suggesting of not setting minimum thresholds for water storage due to the change in storage being so miniscule that it doesn't set off an undesirable result. Ms. Kiriakou stated Woodard and Curran are currently in conversations with DWR regarding this subject and getting their feedback. Ms. Kiriakou addressed depletion of interconnected surface water and the increase in contaminants of groundwater quality. Ms. Kiriakou discussed the undesirable result of salinity as a negative element to groundwater quality being impacted by pumping. Woodard and Curran propose minimum thresholds for salinity to the upper limit of the secondary maximum contaminant level. Mr. Swenson suggested changing that number to 600 for the economic health of the County due to trees being impacted and he suggested taking a look at not just the number but the speciation of salts. The committee discussed how some of these impacts can be mitigated in order to comply with SGMA having minimal losses. Mr. Nervino

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recommended more research on surface water storage and infrastructure for an increasing population and an ag-based local economy.

VI. NEXT MEETING

June 20, 2019 at 2:00 pm.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.